

THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1889.

INCORPORATION.

The Township Committee will probably soon take action on the petition for incorporation presented to them some time since. It will be remembered that the incorporation of the Township was defeated last year by a very small majority, less than twenty, we believe. But so many expressions in favor of incorporation have been heard from those before hostile, that the expression is almost universal in favor of incorporation. But, realizing from much experience, that at elections votes and not opinions count, we begin thus early to urge upon the friends of incorporation the necessity of urgent work.

The Township Committee do not propose to increase the number of polling places for the November election. In view of the fact that the incorporation act may be adopted before the spring election, and a division into wards be made necessary, they do not care to impose upon the town the expense attached to two new polling places for our election only. The committee's plan is to change the lines of the existing districts. About two hundred more voters will be put in the second district which now has three hundred and fifty odd. These will be transferred from the first district. This will leave room for the transferring of one hundred, from the second to the first, which will bring all the districts within the limit of the law as regard the number of votes polled. This is about the wisest thing that can be done under the circumstances.

Anecdote of General Grubb.

It is argued by the democratic press that General Grubb has no experience as a politician and statesman; that Abbott has, and therefore should be elected.

General Grubb is a man of education and intelligence; of large experience and great executive ability. It is true he has held but one political office, that of president of common council of the city of Burlington. There he served faithfully and with credit to himself. In 1866 an epidemic of cholera broke out in Burlington. The physicians and city authorities did all in their power to check the dread disease and quiet the fears of the populace.

One evening in September the overseer of the poor came into the council chamber and reported that an old, lone shooemaker had died of the cholera in a lonely house in the suburbs, and that he, the overseer, had made the necessary arrangements to bury him; had a grave dug in Potter's field and everything ready, but he could not get any one to put the body in the coffin and bury it. The president, General Grubb, said: "The man must be buried; if I can get any one to help me I will do it. Meet me at midnight and show me where the body is. In the meantime, have a grave prepared in St. Mary's cemetery at my expense. I will not bury any one in Potter's field."

So, at midnight, General Grubb, with an old army friend (Bartlett, of Post 16), went to the lonely house, wrapped the corpse in blankets and put it in the coffin. General Grubb drove down to St. Mary's cemetery. After the body had been lowered into the grave, General Grubb, remembering that he had been commissioned as a lay reader by the bishop of New Jersey for the purpose of administering the last rites of the church to any unfortunate soldier that might need his services during the war, went across the street to an old parishioner, borrowed a prayer book and a candle, returned to the grave, and there, in the silent night, with uncovered head and reverential voice, he read the Episcopal service for the burial of the dead. And the poor, old, lone shooemaker, deserted by friends and neighbors, was laid to rest in consecrated ground. And over the grave you can see a stone placed there by General Grubb.

—David Foster, died September, 1866.

Burlington Enterprise.

Influence is exerted almost entirely through the primary meeting. Here the strikers and the demagogues who trade upon the sympathy, prejudice and ignorance; who, in a sense, not intended by St. Paul, become all things to all men, catering to the evil and deceiving the good; to whom patriotism is a word without meaning and the public welfare a mask; who sacrifice the most sacred obligations to selfishness and spite, flourish and grow rank. They are held at bay only by the most unwavering efforts of a faithful few, whose utmost exertions scarcely suffice to rally to the defense of a good government, enough of our easy going good citizens to prevent the bare-faced debauchery of the public service. "What are you going to do about it?" is already the muttered taunt of the striker and his apparently more respectable employer.

Let us then place the administration of township affairs in the hands of a few men, for certainly we have still enough of public virtue in our midst, and see to it that the nine Councilmen shall be nine men of undoubted integrity and business capacity; and to see to it, furthermore, that their defense of the public treasury against the hungry and thirsty political strike shall be good ground for their summary dismissal at the ensuing election.

Township Committee.

The Township Committee transacted their business under distracting circumstances Monday night. The confusion resulting from the lively Republican primary, in the Hall adjoining their rooms, interfered with the attentive discussion of public affairs. Mr. John Oakes of Lincoln avenue, entered a protest against making any deeper excavation of Lincoln avenue, and declared his intention of applying for an injunction restraining it being done. Mr. John Stewart, of Ridgewood avenue, requested permission to open a gutter for the purpose of carrying surface water from Ridgewood avenue. Mr. N. H. Dodd, of the Cemetery Company, complained about the damage being done to the Cemetery roads by the overflow of water from Ridgewood avenue and Benson street.

The plan presented by Enginger Reimer for the grading of Washington avenue, between Glenwood avenue and D. L. & W. R. was adopted. The sidewalk committee were authorized to grade the Glenwood avenue sidewalk on the west side from the corner of Washington avenue to the County culvert near Peter Gibe's. About one foot of filling will be required. The sidewalk will be laid on the same conditions as govern the laying of flagstone sidewalk, that is the property owners will be at one half the expense. Superintendent McGuire, of the N. Y. A. G. L. R. R., sent a communication setting forth what the Railroad company proposed to do in regard to the Belleville avenue bridge. The company propose to raise the track six inches and build a structure after the plans previously submitted to the committee, and, for which the material is now on the ground. This plan for several reasons does not meet the approval of the committee, one of the principal objections being the piers on the sidewalk. It is the opinion of members of the committee that the railroad company can be compelled to put a bridge over Belleville avenue without the objectionable piers. Several of the most expensive property owners in the locality had been consulted over the matter, and

had expressed the opinion that the township should exact all that the law will uphold it in demanding in the case. The committee are disposed to fight the matter in the courts, and with that end in view, an application has been made to Chapellor Runyon for an opinion on the matter. Mr. McGuire in his communication states that it would be impossible to raise the track more than six inches for the reason that it would necessitate the raising of the bridge over the canal, which would cause a great deal of filling at Spruce street crossing, and would make the grade so steep that it would render it a difficult matter to stop and start trains at the depot. In regard to the Highland avenue bridge the company will submit its plans to the committee in the near future.

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The "town meeting" deserves all the eulogies which eminent men have pronounced upon it; but the town meeting which they eulogized was the town meeting which Bloomfield knew long ago, and which the majority (a great majority) of the present voters of Bloomfield have not the slightest recollection or conception of. It was a meeting attended by nearly every taxpayer in the township. No civil or religious duty was considered more imperative than the attendance upon this meeting. Here the affairs of the town, both great and small were earnestly and carefully considered in broad day light. Jobs and jobs found here an uncongenial soil; public good, the best guardian of private interest, was the standard by which all men and all measures were judged; civic virtue grew strong and rugged. We recently had an opportunity of observing the effects of the town meeting system in all its vigor in a Massachusetts township, and realized what had probably been the form of government that Bloomfield had flourished under in the olden times.

But times have changed with us and we must needs change with them. We still have a town meeting in name, but scarce a vestige of its old character remains; it has divided itself into a caucus and an election. The old system, which contemplated the assembling together of all the inhabitants for the discussion of public measures and the election of public servants, is utterly inapplicable to a township of a complex population of eight thousand. A few political strikers for revenue only, Democratic or Republican as the occasion requires, will high if not quite counteract the influence of the rest of the people.

Influence is exerted almost entirely through the primary meeting. Here the strikers and the demagogues who trade upon the sympathy, prejudice and ignorance; who, in a sense, not intended by St. Paul, become all things to all men, catering to the evil and deceiving the good; to whom patriotism is a word without meaning and the public welfare a mask; who sacrifice the most sacred obligations to selfishness and spite, flourish and grow rank. They are held at bay only by the most unwavering efforts of a faithful few, whose utmost exertions scarcely suffice to rally to the defense of a good government, enough of our easy going good citizens to prevent the bare-faced debauchery of the public service. "What are you going to do about it?" is already the muttered taunt of the striker and his apparently more respectable employer.

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